

IX.—OCCURRENCE OF THE LARGER BLUE-WINGED
PITTA (*PITTA MEGARHYNCHA* SCHLEGEL) IN EASTERN
BENGAL.

Some years ago, Mr. F. Field kindly gave me a specimen of the Larger Blue-winged Pitta which he had collected at Barisal, Eastern Bengal, on 19 March, 1925. It was doubtless then on migration. This is the first record for India and suggests that the range of this little-known bird may be wider than is generally realised. This occurrence should have been recorded in print at the time but for some reason both he and I omitted to send it to the *Journal* and I now make good the omission. The specimen has been compared at the British Museum and agrees well with the series in the Hume collection, except, that it is slightly paler in colouration both above and below than most of the specimens.

CALDBEC HOUSE,

BATTLE,

September 8, 1933.

HUGH WHISTLER,

F.Z.S.

X.—CATCHING OF CHIKOR [*ALECTORIS GRAECA*
CHUKAR (GRAY)] IN KASHMIR.

In the last issue of the *Journal* Mr. Stirling remarks that a common way of catching Grey Partridge in Rajputana is to chase them on ponies or with dogs. After two or three flights the birds can be picked up by hand in an exhausted condition.

This reminds me of the Kashmiri method of catching, or rather poaching, Chikor in winter. Two conditions are necessary for this purpose. First, there must be a fall of fresh snow sufficiently heavy to drive the birds down to the low foot-hills; and secondly there must be level ground at the base of these foot-hills. Given these conditions the procedure is as follows. Twenty or thirty villagers scatter themselves about the face of a hill-slope with an interval of say 150 yards between each man. When everybody is in position and the hill-slope is dotted with men at various altitudes and regular intervals, the drive begins. The birds are put up, fly a few hundred yards, settle, and are then immediately put up again by the nearest villager. At each successive flight the birds get lower and lower, and at last descend to the soft snow on the level plain where they flounder about in an exhausted state and are easily caught.

SRINAGAR.

F. LUDLOW.

January 1, 1934.